



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No: 10/688,534)
Applicant: Peter Yong)
Filed: October 17, 2003)
Title: GLARE SHIELD FOR)
CAMERA)
TC/A.U.: 2872)
Examiner: Arnel C. Lavarias)
Docket No.: T-4328)

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CISLO & THOMAS

Charles H. Thomas
Charles H. Thomas, Registration No. 25,710
Customer No. 42556

DECLARATION OF PETER YONG

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

I, Peter Yong, hereby declare and state as follows:

1. I am the sole inventor of the invention described and claimed in the present application, U.S. Application Serial No. 10/688,534.

2. I have reviewed the Official Action of July 21, 2005 as well as all of the references cited therein. I have also reviewed Claims 3, 4, 8-12, 15, 16-18, and 30 as amended. In my opinion, my invention, as defined in those claims, would not be obvious in view of any of the references cited in the Official Action of July 21, 2005, or any combination thereof.

3. I base this opinion partially upon certain experiments that I have performed. Specifically, prior to arriving at the embodiments of the light shield of my invention as described in my U.S. Application Serial No. 10/688,534, I devised a hood for a camcorder video screen panel very similar to that described in the Izawa reference, U.S. Patent No. 6,542,698, particularly, the embodiment illustrated in Fig. 3A of that reference. The system that I devised did not include the Fresnel lens 51 disclosed in connection with that hood, but I did devise a structure very similar to the hood member 1 itself employing Velcro® fasteners 41 to envelop a camcorder video screen panel like the panel Q shown in Fig. 3A of the Izawa reference. However, this experimentation proved largely unsuccessful.

4. The problem with the arrangement that I tried and which is depicted in Fig. 3A

of the Izawa reference, is that there is no direct connection between the shading hood and the video screen panel. That is, the flaps 31 and 32 are attached to each other, but neither of those flaps is attached directly to the video screen panels Q. As I experimented with such a system, I found that the hood 1 thereof would be buffeted by breezes or simple movement of the camera. Also, side panels 2 and the top panel 2a tended to shift out of proper alignment, thus allowing light and hence, glare to fall upon the screen of the video screen panel Q. I ultimately abandoned the approach of fastening panels together to envelop a video screen as shown in the hood 1 in the Izawa reference, due to the instability of such a hood and the fact that it would simply not stay in proper position relative to the video screen panel. I concluded that a direct and lengthy connection to the video screen panel was critical to provide an acceptable light shield.

5. A principal objective of my invention as described in my U.S. Application Serial No. 10/688,534 was to arrive at a design for a light shield that required no modification whatsoever to an existing, commercially available camcorder video screen panel, and which would still properly stay in position to shield the display screen thereof. This proved to be quite difficult, since the sheet materials, such as paper and thin plastic, which are the only commercially feasible materials with which to form a light shield, are inherently unstable. The problem of arriving at a system utilizing such materials which

would stay properly in position eluded me for a considerable period of time. Indeed, I experimented over a course of at least two years before arriving at the embodiments of my invention depicted in Figs. 9-13A thereof.

6. I found that the key to having a successful light shield which could be collapsed flat was to provide it with a flat mounting strip extending rearwardly from the roof of the light shield between the side panels. This strip should extend the entire distance between the side panels. I provided that mounting strip with a single, fixed, elongated attachment member that would connect the light shield directly to the video screen panel.

7. I initially favored use of a flexible fabric hook and loop Velcro® fastening system described in my application, as the means of choice for attachment of the light shield to the video screen panel. However, since filing this application I have discovered that the advantages of the use of a hook and loop fastener system are outweighed by the disadvantages. Specifically, to utilize a hook and loop fastening system, one pad, either the pad of flexible hooks or the pad of looped pile, must be attached to the video screen panel. It cannot be attached along the upper edge of the panel since the clearance of the video screen panel in seating in the cavity is insufficient to allow attachment of a hook and loop or fabric pile pad along the top edge of the panel. Furthermore, if the pad is disposed

on the back side of the camcorder video screen panel, which is exposed, other problems are encountered. That is, if a pad of flexible hooks is attached to the rear surface of the camcorder video screen panel, the hooks on that pad will tear up and damage the foam or soft fabric interior of the camera bag in which the camcorder is carried.

8. On the other hand, if the pad of pile is disposed on the rear surface of the video screen panel, the corresponding pad of flexible hooks must be disposed on the underside of the flat mounting strip extending rearwardly from the rear edge of the roof. Consequently, a plurality of shields of this type collapsed and carried together, tend to snag on other materials in the camera bag, or upon the interior of the camera bag itself.

9. Furthermore, if the flat mounting strip 88 disclosed in Figs. 10 and 11 of my application is provided with a strip of flexible hooks and folded up against the underside of the roof when the side panels are also collapsed together against the roof, the mounting strip 88 will not remain in a folded position, but will tend to extend out due to the springiness of the flexible fabric hooks. The panel side flaps are located forwardly of the mounting strip 88 and will not hold it against the underside of the roof 82. Consequently, the mounting strip 88, if provided with an elongated pad of flexible hooks, will project rearwardly beyond the rear edge of the roof 82 and will snag on other materials carried in the camera bag, or will snag upon adjacent collapsed light shields when one attempts to

withdraw a light shield from a stack of the light shields. Consequently, I have abandoned the use of flexible hook and loop fasteners for attaching the light shield to the camcorder video screen panel.

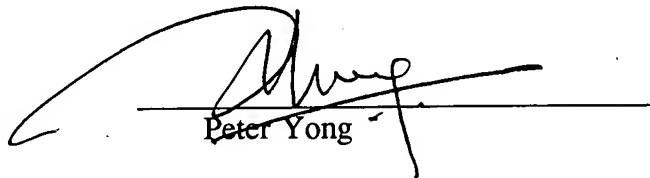
10. In the much more successful embodiments of my invention, as depicted in Figs. 9-13A, the elongated fastening layer is a layer of pressure-sensitive adhesive extending the entire length of the mounting strip. The light shields are collapsed together. As packed for sale and use, the fastening layer of pressure-sensitive adhesive is initially covered with a protective film having a release coating that prevents the adhesive layer from becoming prematurely attached to other adjacent light shields in the package. In this way the protective film prevents light shields in a package from sticking together. Therefore, a single light shield can be easily withdrawn from a package. At this point the protective film is stripped away. The elongated mounting strip of the light shield of my invention may be securely attached to either the top edge or the rear surface of the video screen panel. Because the attachment is along a narrow, elongated region of attachment, the side panel flaps are held securely in position, and braced from movement by their contact with the surface of the screen of the camcorder video screen panel. The side panel flaps are located on either side of the video screen display.

11. I have also found that the use of magnetic strip in place of the pressure-

sensitive adhesive is equally satisfactory, although a light shield according to my invention employing such a strip can be utilized if the frame of the video screen panel is formed of steel or if there is a thin steel plate permanently attached to the top of the video screen panel. When this is the case, however, a light shield for a camcorder video display panel utilizing a magnetic strip in place of the pressure-sensitive adhesive strip is quite satisfactory and entails none of the disadvantages of the hook and loop fabric fastening pads that I have described.

I declare under penalty of perjury that all statement made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that the statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

Date Oct. 21, 2005



Peter Yong